

SECRETINFORMATION

December 17, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL HAIG
FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE
SUBJECT: The Downeys

Al Jenkins of State informs me that Bill Downey (brother of John T.) is very unhappy over the lack of advance notice of the PRC action with respect to John. Bill Downey called Al on December 16 and kept him on the phone for over two hours.

Recalling that CIA was supposed to have contacted the Downey family, I checked with the Agency as to what in fact had been done. I was informed that DCI Helms had instructed appropriate people at the Agency to get in touch with the Downeys on Sunday, December 12, and that this had been done. However, according to my informant, Mr. Helms had felt he was authorized only to convey the information that a PRC statement was forthcoming with no reference to what the statement was going to say.

My CIA informant confirmed that Bill Downey was very unhappy over the situation (although he apparently has now cooled down). Mr. Helms was sending a memorandum to Mr. Kissinger reporting the situation and recommending that Mr. Kissinger telephone the Downey family personally in order to sooth ruffled feelings. I personally would endorse this recommendation.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI per C05081402

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No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/02/26 : LOC-HAK-19-3-12-4